

LAMBDA'S

TRUTH

"False words are not only evil within themselves, but they infect the soul with evil."

- Plato

Laurentian University's Original Student Newspaper

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SGA EXECUTIVE DOESN'T
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THE TRUTH IS INSIDE... SINCE 1961

Students' General Association Cuts off Lambda Funding and Changes The Locks on Their Office

An Obvious Attempt to Gain Control of Student Journalism by a Board of Directors on the Way Out the Door

By Mat Thompson
Editor In Chief

In a year that saw many problems within the offices of Lambda Publications, no one could have imagined that within the last thirty days of administration, and at the last board meeting of the Students' General Association, the SGA would take action against Lambda Publications, a paper that they do not run in any way. But on April 2, 2003, at the 13th SGA Board Meeting of the year, the SGA decided to execute a full-out assault against Lambda Publications.

It should be explained that the Students' General Association has never had any editorial, financial or governing control over Lambda Publications since its inception in 1961. The Constitution and Policy Manuals of both the SGA and Lambda state this fact, but the SGA decided that they needed to take as much power away from Lambda Publications for their own personal agenda, which will be addressed in this article.

According to the minutes of the SGA Board Meeting, Lambda was brought up by SGA President and former Lambda Publications staff writer, Andrew Noakowski, as "having numerous complaints regarding LAMBDA, the SGA felt obligated to the students to look into the matter." Instead of bringing Lambda into the Board Meeting as was the case earlier in the school year, the SGA Board decided to go ahead and "divert funding from LAMBDA and put it towards the operation of a student newspaper."

This came as quite a shock to the staff of Lambda Publications as they were not notified of any complaints at all by the SGA Executive over the last few months other than a small group who claimed that Lambda "consistently printed sexist, racist and homophobic material," a claim that the Students' General Association openly disagreed with at the time.

Any complaints that may have been brought to the SGA Executive members were never discussed with Lambda at all, even though Lambda staff members frequented the SGA Office to speak with these members as well as to pick up any submissions that may have been dropped off. Once in a while, Lambda would have been told things like "Some girl came in here complaining of something in the last issue," or "someone doesn't like the last editorial", but it never went any further than that as the SGA Executive never set up meetings between Lambda Publications and the students, or even attempted to actually institute any change within Lambda as it pertained to the complaint.

The first motion brought forward to the SGA Board, which was approved unanimously, was "Be it resolved that the SGA will divert funding to LAMBDA and redirected to a new school paper that will be properly established with a board of directors, a constitution and bylaws." This was the SGA's first way of gaining power over student journalism here on campus.

Due to the fact that SGA President Andrew Noakowski had not attended any of the Lambda Publications Staff Meetings in the second semester, he did not know that the Lambda Publications Executive and Staff had decided and discussed implementing a Board of Directors for the 2003-2004 publishing year. Lambda staff felt that a board would bring more student input into the running of Lambda and would be able to implement a hiring committee in September when Editor-in-Chief Mat Thompson was going to resign his position after over seven years of working at Lambda.

Although Mat had made the decision to stay a month earlier, he had since changed his mind and was only going to stay for the first month of the new publishing year to make sure the changes had been

implemented and that a new Editor was established and trained properly for the position.

In not contacting Lambda about the internal complaints that the SGA Board had received with regards to Lambda, they jumped the gun in wanting to start their own paper as Lambda was ready to work together with them to bring about the proper changes without having to go to such drastic measures as trying to shut down Lambda after 42 years at Laurentian University.

According to the minutes of the meeting, "Board members were not satisfied with only diverting funds. Several were apprehensive allowing the employees of the paper access to the equipment, fearing damage or theft. Further discussions resulted in the Board wanting to protect the equipment that they felt belongs to the students and not to the individuals running Lambda." A motion was brought forward to change the locks on the doors as soon as possible and alert security about what they were going to do.

As the meeting was going on and the decision to change the locks was voted on, the Lambda staff was in the office working on the last edition of Lambda, and were never informed of the decision. Instead, the SGA waited until the next afternoon when no one was in the office to have the locks changed.

The SGA called the Editor-in-Chief at home in the early afternoon on Thursday, April 3rd leaving a message "Hey Mat, it's Bubbles (SGA President Andrew Noakowski). I need you to stop by the office when you get a chance as there is a few things I need to talk to you about." There was no mention of the lock-out until the Editor-in-Chief showed up at the SGA Office and was told by SGA Vice-President Issues John Livingstone, "The SGA Board voted to pull the funding from Lambda and give it to another newspaper next year. They also changed the locks on your doors because they don't want you using the office."

When questioned as to why the SGA did this without consulting Lambda at all, John Livingstone told the Editor, "There have been a lot of complaints." When pushed to explain which complaints these were, all the Editor was told was that the content, and lack thereof, was called into question as well as the way Lambda was being run. No specific complaints were brought up other than issues from within the SGA.

According to students within the Board who have spoken

to Lambda, the main complaints of the SGA Executive were that of a lack of content and continuity in releasing papers. These complaints were ones that were brought to Lambda's attention in the first half of the year when the Lambda Publications staff sat before the board and answered all their questions as to Lambda, and opened themselves up for any ideas and help the SGA Board might have had at that time. Many Board members spoke up wanting to help, giving Lambda ideas as well as letting Lambda know that they had ideas for their own columns. At least ten to fifteen of the board members told the Lambda staff that they would begin submitting articles, but only two ever ended up doing so.

The Lambda Publications staff feels that this whole thing stems from a discussion between SGA President Andrew Noakowski and Lambda Publications Editor-in-Chief Mat Thompson earlier this year. Mr. Noakowski had let it be known that he was interested in obtaining the position of Editor-in-Chief after he was done as SGA President, and spoke frequently in the SGA and the Lambda office as to his aspirations towards Lambda. When Mr. Noakowski was told of Mr. Thompson's idea to stay and run for the position of Editor once again (an idea that changed a few weeks later), Mr. Noakowski's reaction was a simple "I'm going to start my own paper, you know."

The staff of Lambda Publications never thought anything of this threat as many students over the years have wanted their own paper at Laurentian, but none had the power to do so. Upon finding that the SGA Constitution stated that the levy had to go to "a student newspaper" and not Lambda, the SGA jumped at their chance to shut down Lambda Publications to start up this new paper, a paper that had already been discussed by the SGA President.

Due to the fact that the SGA is on the Student Centre Management Committee, they moved quickly to lock the doors to the office on April 3rd, but notice of eviction was not written up, or sent out to the Lambda Publications staff until April 8, 2003. In this time, the staff has only been able to access their own personal items from the Lambda office accompanied by an SGA Executive member as well as security. Right now, the SGA holds the only key to the Lambda office, even though it can be seen as a conflict of interest as they themselves do not solely manage the

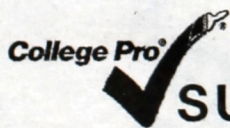
Student Centre, and it is the SGA Executive, or certain members of the Executive, that want Lambda shut down to start their own paper.

All the equipment in the Lambda office, the equipment that the SGA board felt that the staff may damage or steal, is integral to the publication of Lambda, and in the view of this paper, is being held hostage to force Lambda to shut down. All the equipment was purchased by Lambda Publications when it was needed or when it was financially viable to do so. The student levy was always used first and foremost for the publication of the paper (\$1000.00 per issue on average), then for payroll second, and for expenditures last.

This year, Lambda received the sum of \$22,500.00 from the SGA as the first part of the levy, with almost another \$10,000.00 outstanding, due this semester. According to the bylaws of the SGA, and all the literature they have produced for their members, the entire \$10 levy was to go to the publication of a student newspaper for the 2002-2003 school year. Now, the second half of the levy is being held for another paper to be started up next year. This means that money given to the SGA for this year is going to be used for a project that they have for next year. This could be seen as misappropriation of funds and SGA members should be able to go into the SGA Office and get a refund of the part that was not given to Lambda. Lambda is not fighting for this excess money, but feels that the students should ask serious questions about this money.

As of this date, Lambda Publications and its staff of four are looking into the future of Lambda very seriously. It is believed that Lambda may be able to survive with advertising revenue and outside funding, but due to the actions of the student government, it will be hard to do as they will not even let Lambda move its equipment to a new location to set up shop. The staff wants to keep Lambda going as there is no monopoly on student journalism or newspapers here on campus, but the SGA seems to be moving like there is.

After this issue, there will be one last edition of Lambda for the 2002-2003 publishing year. The paper is being produced completely on outside equipment and will be delivered to the campus as soon as possible. Hopefully, by the last issue, the problems that the SGA are causing for Lambda will be somewhat resolved, but the staff are not counting on it.



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Tell Them What you Think...

New Laurentian Collaboration With Sudbury-Area High Schools Won't See The Light of Day

By Nick Stewart
Assistant Editor

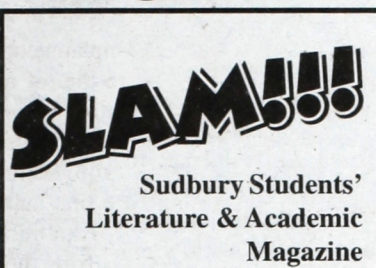
This summer, the Sudbury area was to be introduced to a new paper run by, written by and overseen by Sudbury area high school students. The paper was to be a collaborative effort between Lambda Publications staff and the area high schools to give students a glimpse into the world of student journalism before leaving high school.

The concept of SLAM, Sudbury's Student Literature & Academic Magazine, was brought to light by Lambda's Editor-in-Chief, Mat Thompson, and was to be put into effect in mid-April, with the idea of getting the high school students into the office and beginning to write before their school year had ended.

According to the by-laws of Lambda Publications, Lambda can take on any outside projects as long as it didn't interfere with the production of Lambda. Since the production of SLAM was going to begin at the end of the Lambda publishing year, it seemed like the perfect project.

"We had already contacted some of the high schools about SLAM and a lot of people seemed interested," explained Mat Thompson. "We spoke to people within Laurentian and even they thought it would have been great for the students, as well as Laurentian. It's too bad the entire plan had to be scrapped now that we have been evicted from our offices."

Lambda Publications was going to look into alternative funding on top of advertising revenue for SLAM, making it a totally self-supported paper. The first issue was going to be funded partially by Lambda Publications and the rest through donations from a few Sudbury area charities and individuals who saw this as something that could do a lot of good



for the students.

The idea of SLAM was a simple one: it would be a paper, much like Lambda, but geared towards high school students. The editorial staff of Lambda Publications was going to help and volunteer their time to the students in their writing and ideas, but little input would have come directly from Lambda as the paper was going to be a paper by Sudbury students. Besides an introductory article in the first edition, the Lambda Publications staff would not have written any of the articles in SLAM.

SLAM was intended to let students get a better grasp on their writing skills, as well as showcase the writing talent that is being buried under exams and essays in the secondary schools here in Sudbury. The staff of Lambda Publications hoped that it would not only bring out the closet-writers, but also help to bring an interest to working for Lambda, or any other student newspaper that the students may come across when they graduate and move onto post-secondary education.

"I came here not even caring about student journalism, and now I've been writing for over seven years for Lambda," Mat explained. "Some students don't know what direction they want to go into, and if they're exposed to student journalism early on, they may have a new direction for their education. I don't care if these students go to Laurentian or anywhere else, so long

as they get a chance to write and see what student journalism is all about."

The entire staff of Lambda Publications agreed that SLAM was something that should go forward this year. With the majority of the staff in Sudbury over the summertime, it would have been easy to start and sustain SLAM throughout the summer. The staff was excited to get the new project off the ground and out into the community, as well as to get some new writers in the office. The plan was going along perfectly until the Students' General Association decided to cut off the Lambda funding and the Student Centre Management Committee (run in part by the SGA) decided to evict Lambda from their office.

The idea of SLAM has continued to be discussed by the staff of Lambda Publications following their eviction, but they have had to scrap the idea due to a lack of space to train the high school students, as well as a lack of equipment. The equipment, owned by Lambda Publications, has been held in the office by the SGA, preventing access by the Lambda Publications staff.

"We were hoping to make an impact on the Sudbury community with this paper. We could have given the students a voice they have never had before, and a chance to show people what they can do," Mat Thompson explained. "We would have loved to have gone ahead with SLAM, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the idea will never see the light of day."

No one knows how big SLAM could have become in Sudbury, but now it will never even be printed. It's too bad that this idea never got off the ground as a lot of students could have really shown this community what they were made of. Now that voice has been silenced once again; this time, by another group of students.

42 YEARS vs 11 MONTHS IN OFFICE

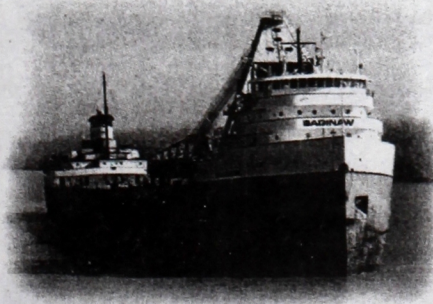
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After 42 Years, Should the SGA Levy Be Up for Contract?

Or Should the Board Just Use it However They Feel Is Justified

By Mat Thompson
Editor In Chief

So after 42 years of service to the Laurentian community, Lambda has had the yearly levy collected by the SGA pulled and immediately given to a newspaper that the outgoing SGA Executive will be in charge of constructing and running. How fair is this to the students of Laurentian University and the Students' General Association? Their own money, that they have been told is designated for Lambda, will now be used to fund and start up a new paper, completely run by the outgoing SGA Board.

One thing that the SGA is doing with the \$10,000.00 withheld from Lambda this year is freezing it and rolling it over to the new paper, that of course they will be putting together. The SGA will not run this paper, but it is members of the current SGA Executive and Board that will be taking helm of this paper once their term is up in the SGA Offices. Of course at the Board Meeting, the SGA stated they were going to strike up a Board of Directors, and make up a hiring committee to hire the new Editor In Chief for their proposed newspaper (rumored to be named The Laurentian Chronicle). This money, as well as the money collected next year from the new SGA students will go towards securing the job of the new Editor In Chief (also rumored to be Andrew Noakowski, the man behind the hostile takeover of the Lambda office... what a coincidence) and to produce the new paper. But should it happen this way?

Since the SGA has decided that for some reason Lambda is not competent in putting out papers (what do you call this), shouldn't the levy be put up for contract? Instead of re-routing the funds into a new paper that has no backing behind it except for the students who destroyed this paper, the SGA should put it out to anyone who feels they can produce a new paper for Laurentian.

The levy, which next year will probably clear \$35,000.00, plus the \$10,000.00 withheld from Lambda is a pretty hefty sum to just hand over to a new group of students who feel that they can produce a paper better than Lambda, with no real experience or know-how as to the day-to-day inner-workings of a student paper. This \$45,000.00 should be held until the new SGA Executive can decide on what action to take with regards to a new student paper, and not on the decision of the outgoing Executive, who we have seen has their own personal agenda towards these actions.

This is what Lambda would have proposed to the SGA Executive Board if they were contacted in any way about this before the lock-out.

- 1) The money from this year should be handed back to the students of the SGA as it will not be used for its designated purpose. Either a refund of \$3 to each student should be given (and you should demand this), or the money should be put into a scholarship fund for the students.
- 2) The levy for the 2003-2004 Publishing year should be decided upon by a committee, put together by the 2003-2004 Executive, by having anyone interested in starting up a new paper draft up a proposal and present it to the board. Lambda, as well as any students who feel they can do the job should be allowed to present.
- 3) Anyone seen to have a conflict of interest in this matter (ie Voting members who voted to pull the levy, including one new SGA Executive Member who voted 'yes') should be excluded from the committee as it will be seen as unfair to all parties involved.
- 4) The new paper (Lambda included) should sit down to hammer out new regulations with the committee as to the best way to run the paper, but still giving it the freedom it should have, especially from SGA intervention as happened this year.

So why is the money not being handled in this fashion? The answer is simple. The SGA Executive Board feels that they can do a better job at running a student newspaper than Lambda, and through withholding the funds, and redirecting them to their own project, they look like the good guys. The only flaw in this plan is that a lot of students already know about the personal agenda of the board, but can't do anything about it as they are leaving office in less than three weeks.

Lambda Publications wants desperately to continue publishing for the students of Laurentian University, but due to the actions of the SGA, they may not be able to. The SGA is doing everything they can to ensure the success of the new paper and the complete demise of Lambda. Lambda has, and always will be able to produce this paper, but the board decided to not let us even defend ourselves or prove ourselves worthy of the levy... they just wanted it for themselves.

If you want the SGA to reconsider this, or you want the remaining part of your levy back, go to their office and demand to be heard. They have already proven through their actions they are acting in their own best interest and not that of the student population. The current executive may not listen, but the new executive will have to hear what you have to say. The students may be able to change what has happened and show the SGA their power is only limited to that of the students they represent.

It's your money... they just seem to have forgotten this simple fact.

DON'T HUNT WHAT YOU CAN'T KILL!!!

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Editor In Chief

Mat Thompson

Financial Editor

Mat Thompson

Assistant Editor

Nick Stewart

Editorial Staff

News Editor open

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A&E Editor Hugh Panelas

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Circulation

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Chapters
Records on Wheels

Lambda Publications is the weekly student newspaper of, by and for the students of Laurentian University. Lambda is partially funded through a direct student levy by the members of the Students' General Association, yet remains autonomous from all university organizations, both student and administrative. I guess some people don't care about that when they have their own agenda!

Editor's Corner...

"You are so young my son, and, as the years go by, time will change and even reverse many of your present opinions. Refrain therefore awhile from setting yourself up as judge of the highest matters."

- Plato

It's like a dream that I can't wake up from. No matter how hard I thrash and struggle, the dream consumes my very existence and devours my entire being. I can still feel it. Deeper. Harder. Too out of reach. The knife in my back is buried deep between my shoulder blades and nothing will ever remove it. It's there forever, and even if it were to be pulled out, the action and the damage has been done.

Seven years I have walked into this school and walked up to the third floor. Different moods. Different times. Different weather. The only thing that was the same every day was the fact that I knew I was going somewhere that I not only loved and enjoyed, but also somewhere where my heart and soul lay. The papers that sit dormant on the shelves of the Lambda office, locked away for an eternity, all have one thing in common: a few students that cared enough about this university sat in that office and gave their all to try to put out a paper that the students would read, and maybe even enjoy.

I remember every single cover from every issue I have been a part of. One hundred and fifty-seven issues and I admit I have given more of myself to the paper physically and emotionally than anything else in my life. You can sit back and say it's just a paper, but to me, it was a part of me. A part of my heart. A part of my soul. And that's what they have taken from me and from you...a piece of me.

Take it. Tell everyone what you want to tell them, but I know that there are a lot of students who want this paper. Students have come to me and said to me that they love what we do. They have told me that they can see that little extra that I put in this paper to make it a more personal

thing. Is that so fucking wrong for me to want to connect with the students on a personal level? I gave them me...not some stuffed-shirt paper that is ruled by people with their own agenda.

What was my agenda with this paper? To get it on the stands and have people read it. That's it. I didn't want to secure myself a job, or try to right every wrong that the students have. No one can do that, but you can make a difference in a positive way; just not like this.

Did anyone come to me and tell me of the problems that were supposedly running rampant in this paper, office and executive? Hell no! A few people did in the elections, and with my guard up against them, I lost sight of those who were right under my nose. You know what? At least the guys in the last elections had the balls to say it in public and not in some meeting of thirty who claim to represent three thousand. They wanted to make a change, not destroy a paper, jobs and tradition.

Do you really think that everyone is going to back you on this? Do you really think that the students will all of a sudden embrace a new paper run by the SGA? Oh, I'm sorry, I mean an SGA Executive member who took office less than one hour after leaving the SGA. Do you not think that people will put two and two together?

Two months ago/ I was asked by the SGA to let them know when I was leaving as they were going to throw me a going-away party. What happened in those two months? Was it a trap in the beginning to lure me in and take me out? "Et tu, Brute?" If you want to take me out, stab me in the chest. Take my fucking heart if that's what you really want! Don't stab me in the back and think I will stay down.

You have to kill me.

I thought you had killed me for a while. I sat in the dark, followed by it everywhere I went. I was swallowed into my couch, floor, bed and the world around me. An abyss came and sucked me in, dulling my senses and engulfing me. I didn't sleep, then I slept forever. I wanted to die, I wanted to leave...I wanted someone to wake me up and tell me it was all going to be alright.

So where am I now? I sit at home in front of my own computer and I try to keep doing what I do. Do you think I will just turn my back on the students and let you win? Will I let you lie and tell people everything you want?

It's like an old-time paradox. "A student journalist and a student politician tell you two different stories. Who do you trust?" One is paid to spin and one is paid to lie. Both have the student's best interest at heart, but who is the one who doesn't have their own agenda mixed in? That's where the students have to figure it out for themselves. Who is lying to you and who is trying to let you know what really goes on?

I don't know what else I can tell you outside this paper. The truth is out there, but you have to find it for yourselves.

It has been a week since the doors were locked and I can hear that bolt slamming into place every time I close my eyes. This is the one thing that I cannot forget. I have lost family members, friends and even my girlfriend while writing, editing and producing this paper for the students over the years. I gave up my entire life to make this paper work and make sure it came out as much as I could.

Every time someone asked me to go to a movie, to dinner, to go home for the holidays, to attend my

grandmother's funeral, to try to get my girlfriend back, to help a friend in need, I always had one answer for them...I have a paper to put out.

I'm sorry. Maybe my heart was invested to deeply in this paper. Maybe I had my priorities screwed up. Maybe I cared too much about something, and not enough about everything. But you know what? I will always be a guy who has ink in his veins and newsprint on his hands. I thought a week ago I was nothing, but that was wrong. I thought there was nothing that I could do to bring myself back, but I found it.

There are still two papers left to go, with or without the levy. There is still a paper to be put out and I know there are students who look at the stands every day, maybe just glancing, but they look, and they want another paper. But it's not just a paper they want...they want Lambda.

And because they want Lambda, they want a piece of me. So take it. Take another little piece of my heart...because every student out there has a bit of it and you will never be able to stop it from beating. There's a Lambda to be produced and until the day I die, my heart and soul will be in there. You can't stop me!

Mat Thompson
Heart and Soul
Editor-in-Chief.



THERE WILL BE ONE MORE...

And We'll Go out With a Bang!!!

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Write to Us, But Remember...

The Students' General Association just decided to pull the Student Levy that was given to Lambda, so we have to survive on our own, which they don't want us to do. We are not going to roll over and die, so you can still write to us, but I'm not sure when it will be printed. If you have any problems with the decision of the SGA in trying to force Lambda out of the school, go to their website and voice your concern to one of their executive members at:

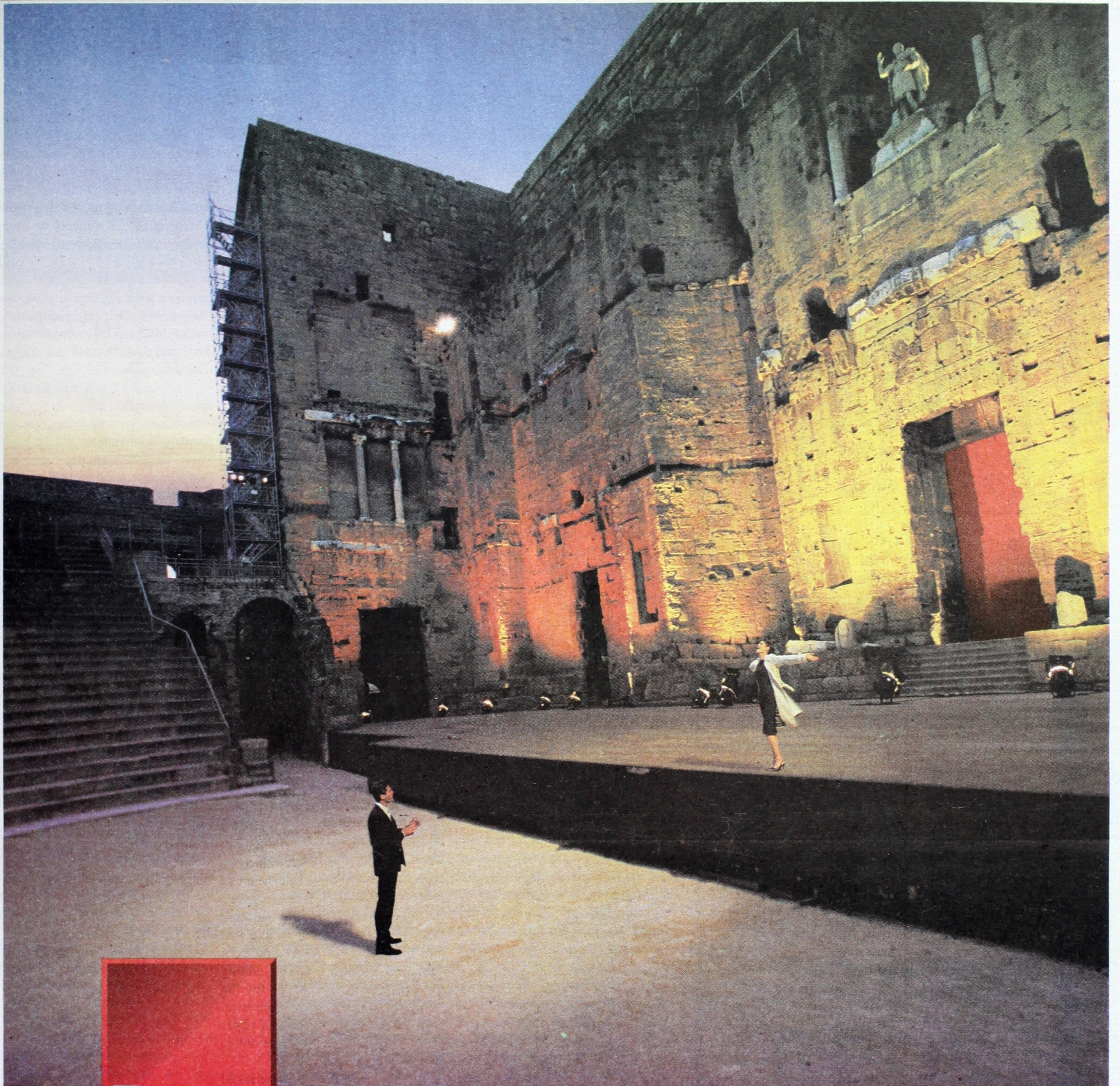
www.sga.laurentian.ca

Emailed Submissions

Email the SGA and let them know that they made a mistake. Just go to their website and email them. They claim to have done this for the students, but they did it to take the power away from the students, and put it in the hands of the SGA. Funny how things work that way in student politics..



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Point the Finger at Yourselves

Hugh Panelas
Entertainment Editor

By now most of you the students and readers of Lambda Publications know the full story about what the SGA has done to this publication and subsequently years of tradition here at Laurentian University. While I myself have many different personal feelings involved in this situation because of my 3 years writing for this newspaper and my 4 years of being an SGA employee at the Pub, I have managed to keep the two areas separate. It wasn't until now that the two jobs have intertwined and that separate area has become grey.

After being an active participant in this battle to keep Lambda alive I took a step aside and really thought of the arguments that SGA President Andrew Noakowski was looking to make. I have honestly taken time to reflect on all that Lambda has had to put up with from an office and a board that has no power over this newspaper whatsoever. After this reflection I decided that since the SGA Executive was quick and easy to point their fingers at Lambda Publications someone had to step up and point the finger back at them. In doing so I found some interesting points in the SGA's own constitution that can be found on-line through Laurentian University's website.

SGA President Andrew Noakowski

I guess that a good place to begin would be with SGA President Andrew Noakowski. In his bio that is posted on the SGA website as well as outside the office he makes a few claims on what he had hoped to accomplish this year. From the first paragraph of that bio;

"The key word that I will be stressing this year is communication. With the right lanes of communication we can keep you informed of what we're doing, and you can tell us what you think of it, that way we can improve on our ideas and suit them to your best interests."

The question that I now pose to all SGA members and readers of Lambda is did Andrew live up to his claims about how important communication is? Have any SGA members that aren't on the Board or aren't friends of the Board members have any idea what the SGA has done to this publication? The SGA has taken steps to assure that their attack was done behind closed doors and very quietly. Hardly any of the students knew about what was going on until Lambda broke the silence. In fact, BYLAW 14.01 (xii) of their constitution states that the SGA President will "write a monthly article for the student media and/or community media in order to create awareness of the SGA/AGE. If the President is unable to submit an article, the onus will be on the Vice President Student Issues." I can assure you that Lambda never once saw any article come across our desks and this duty is right from the Job Description of the President.

Andrew goes in his bio to talk about social skills;

"By social skills I mean to have the ability to talk to people and get your point across. All the knowledge in the world won't do you a bit of good if you can't converse with someone...Dealing with people in an effective manner is a skill that can't be taught in school."

He takes the position that he wants to communicate with the students and wants to have an open forum for ideas and opinions about what the SGA can and is doing but then turns his back on that position by sneaking around and making arrangements behind closed doors. Despite the fact that Andrew has been talking to his friends and the word is being spread that he has tried to work with Lambda Publications rather than against it I can once again assure you that his involvement has been limited. He did assist us, all be on a somewhat non-existent role, when dealing with some issues. Not once however, did Andrew come forward to an open Lambda Publications staff meeting with a written claim as to what the SGA members were concerned about. He was more concerned with his own personal agenda.

BYLAW 14.01 (xvii) states that the President will "attempt to ensure all monies are controlled or allocated by the SGA/AGE Board are used for the purposes for which they were designated." This point directly affects all SGA members. Each SGA member pays fees. Of those fees \$10 is put aside and is given to Lambda Publications. Since the SGA has decided to go on the attack they have withheld the levy and subsequently the STUDENT'S MONEY. Lambda Publications has not received the final amount owing and that means that somewhere in the range of \$3-\$4 of YOUR money is now sitting in a bank account collecting interest for the SGA. Do the math, with a membership of around 3286 you can calculate just how much student money is sitting there.

BYLAW 14.01(xvii) clearly states that the money that the SGA has control over must go to the purposes that they were designated for. Now don't get me wrong, the SGA has said that the money must go to a student newspaper not specifically Lambda Publications. That's fine but as of May 1, 2003 a new term begins and either Lambda Publications will be around or a new newspaper will be taking its place, run and over seen by the SGA. The money that the students have paid this year must go to what it was allocated for THIS year. Not in a new term. I propose that all SGA members walk into that office and demand their leftover levy back because they aren't using it for what it has been allocated for. By holding this money hostage Andrew has once again violated his Job Description as written in the SGA Constitution.

SGA Vice President Student Issues John Livingstone

The first question that

comes to mind when I think of John Livingstone is what did you really do this year? How do you justify getting paid by the students? I know that in a past article I did defend his position and that I myself stated that it was up to the students to come forward with issue for him to handle. From his bio;

"I'm here to solve your problems with all three levels of the Government, Administration, Faculty and any other organization that could possibly come into contact with the students."

I can tell your first hand that John brought two, only two complaints to the attention of Lambda Publications and its staff. The first complaint Lambda Publications dealt with and John informed us that he dealt with the other. All of a sudden John is taking the position that there have been many different complaints throughout the school year about Lambda Publications. If this is true why haven't there been any formal meetings between the Vice President of Student Issues and the Executive Staff of Lambda Publications?

BYLAW 14.02 (vi) states that the VP Student Issues will "liaise with other external organizations to raise awareness of important issues within and outside of the University community." If students have brought many different complaints or issues to John's office then why did Lambda Publications have no knowledge of them? John makes the claim in his bio that he wants to help the students and even his position's job description he is tied into that. The problem here is that John never took the steps, and it is only one flight to the offices of Lambda Publications, to work for the students and with Lambda itself.

SGA Vice President Services Kevin Hayashi

After reviewing the bios and Job Descriptions of all three SGA Executive positions I must say that I can't point the finger at Kevin at all. Out of the three Executive members Kevin has maintained his position quite well. The Job Description section clearly states what each position of the SGA Executive is supposed to do and Kevin fulfilled every aspect of his role. As an SGA member I would have liked to see more concerts and some other excitement around campus but I guess you can't have it all.

While Kevin's role in the SGA may not be as power-filled as the other two positions it would have been responsible of one of the SGA Vice Presidents to come forward with issues or complaints that students were having. Also, while it might not be the Vice President Services' job to deal with such issues aren't all three positions there for the students and the members of the SGA?

So what has the SGA done for the students this year? Maybe a few things here and there, but the main thing they did was destroy a 42 year tradition. Great job guys!

TRUTH RUMORS & LIES

"The only thing he ought to consider, if he does anything, is whether he does right or wrong, whether it is what a good man does or a bad man." - Plato

THE TRUTH BEHIND WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID & WHAT THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW...

Already the SGA has leaked information to the students as to what happened to Lambda and why they did what they did. But like many students out there, you only got part of the story. The SGA doesn't want to come off looking bad, especially if they are going to try to start a new paper next year, so they only told you what they wanted you to hear. Student politics may be dirty, but the truth is a bitch when it gets out.

They may think they shut us out, but they didn't shut us down. Here's what the SGA Board heard and what they have been telling people. We figured we would throw a little truth in with all their rumors and lies...

Lambda Ignored Student Complaints

Rumors and Lies... As the SGA Board was told earlier in the year, they do not run Lambda, and all complaints were to be directed to Lambda Publications. Supposedly they went ahead with their lock-down of Lambda due to an overwhelming amount of complaints towards Lambda. They also went on to state that Lambda ignored all complaints that they brought to us. The SGA Board has also told people that Lambda did not care about any complaints and would print however they wanted, no matter what the students think.

Truth... The SGA only told Lambda of one complaint this semester, and the SGA VP Issues brushed it off as a complaint that had no real merit. He actually laughed about the complaint when telling us about it and did not push for any further action. Any complaints that Lambda heard about did not come from the SGA Executive as they had no communication with Lambda for the last month. The Board never came forward to Lambda in the second semester with any complaints at all, and Lambda never knew of any until they were told of the lock-out. Lambda was always open for students to come and talk to us about their concerns or complaints, but no one ever came forward. Everything was done without Lambda being involved.

Broken Contracts

Rumors and Lies... The SGA brought up the fact that Lambda broke contracts with advertisers over the last year by not publishing their ads. They went on to state that this left Lambda open for lawsuits and fines that would come out of the student's money.

Truth... Lambda printed every issue this year except for one, which was due computer problems. Lambda did arrive on the stands late some times, but the ads ran. Any ads that were out of date, if any, were removed. Lambda is not the only student newspaper that has ever fallen behind schedule. Every paper has its problems, and the small Lambda staff busted their asses to make sure a paper came out as soon as was humanly possible. As for the fines, if an ad does not run, the fine is removed from the remittance payments paid to the paper from the advertisers. Any fines that Lambda may have received was never in any way paid for by the student's, or from their money. This was taken from revenue earned by advertising.

The Lock-Down of the Lambda Office

Rumors and Lies... When it was decided upon by the SGA Board to remove the levy, it was brought up by The Board that they felt Lambda staff should not be allowed in their own office due to a threat of destruction and/or theft of the equipment by the current staff after hearing what had happened.

Truth... The threat of destruction and theft was a scare tactic used to get The Board and the school's approval to do what they did. The SGA knew the Lambda staff, especially Mat Thompson, had a reputation at Laurentian as being aggressive towards anyone opposed to Lambda. What they failed to mention was the dedication of the Lambda staff to get the paper out as much as possible, and that they would never destroy something they fought so hard to keep alive all these years. The lock-down was not because they were scared of what the Lambda staff may do, but was to keep the staff from the equipment and files so they could not publish. The lock-down was a power move to force Lambda to either relocate or shut down, and not due to any concern towards the equipment.

The Paper Did Not Represent the Students of Laurentian University

Lies and Rumors... This is a simple one. The SGA claimed that the paper only appealed to the students who wrote for it and was just a vehicle for them to write what they wanted. *Truth...* Yes, the paper did reflect the views and opinions of the staff that wrote for it, because they were the only ones writing for it! Five writers cannot express the views and opinions of every single student on campus.

The SGA Board earlier this year claimed they would help out and submit articles, but no one ever came forward with submissions. Student newspapers are only as good as the people writing for it. If only five students write for the paper, you can't expect them to cover everything. If the SGA Board really wanted to see specific things in Lambda, they should have brought it up at meetings with Lambda, or actually submitted more than just random CD reviews. The SGA never submitted anything to Lambda this year other than free advertising and small articles for the Entertainment section.

Lambda Refused to be Governed By a Board of Directors

Rumors and Lies... The SGA claimed that Lambda refused to ever be governed by a Board of Directors.

Truth... Although the staff of Lambda voted the Board of Directors out back in 1993 (well before Mat Thompson ever showed up), discussions were made with the SGA as to creating a Board or Committee for next year. On a few occasions Mat Thompson and Andrew Noakowski discussed this, and it was decided that Lambda should look at the set-up for the CKLU Board, as that was the type of board that Lambda needed. Over the last few months the Board was discussed further and the Lambda Executive were ready to work with the 2003-2004 SGA Executive to create such a committee, but this fact was ignored and never brought up to the SGA Board by those who had this knowledge (at least 3 members of the SGA Board). Lambda wanted to create such a Committee to bring in more student input, but was cut off before being able to.

The SGA Did This In the Students' Best Interest

Rumors and Lies... The title is the lie. It's just that simple.

Truth...

FACT - SGA President Andrew Noakowski made it clear to Lambda that he wanted to become Editor of Lambda Publications for the 2003-2004 publishing year.

FACT - SGA President Andrew Noakowski was appointed Assistant A&E Editor in order to run for Editor at the end of the year. He submitted minimal articles and did not follow the job description of an Assistant Editor.

FACT - SGA President Andrew Noakowski,

upon being told that Mat Thompson may be returning next year stated "You know I'm going to start my own paper." And shockingly his own administration forced Lambda out to start a new paper next year.

FACT - SGA President Andrew Noakowski not only asked the SGA if they would fund his new paper, but also looked into outside funding before freezing Lambda's funds.

FACT - The lock-out of Lambda was not in the best interest of the students, but the easiest way to fund and get a new paper off the ground, as well as not have any competition.

Mat Thompson Was Staying for Another Year

Rumors and Lies... It has been said that Mat Thompson was going to appoint himself Editor for a fifth year, and not hold an election for the position.

Truth... An election was to be held, and it was to be announced in the next edition of Lambda, but the SGA locked them out before it could be printed. The plan, as told to the Lambda staff one week prior to the lock-out, was for Mat to stay on, if elected, until the end of September or October. A hiring committee was to be struck and a new Editor to be trained in the time that Mat remained to ensure Lambda was left in capable hands. Mat never intended to complete the entire year next year, but felt it was his duty after seven years with Lambda to make sure it would still be able to publish. The SGA did a great job at making sure that would never happen.

This may all sound like conspiracy theories and your typical "He Said, She Said" garbage, but the truth is evident. When you want people to back you, you tell them what you want them to believe, even if it is rumors and lies... when you defend yourself against those lies, you tell the people the whole truth. The SGA has everything to loose from the truth. Lambda has already lost it all, so why not let you know everything. It's your decision as to who to believe...

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